

# LARGE GAPS BETWEEN CONSECUTIVE PRIME NUMBERS CONTAINING SQUARE-FREE NUMBERS AND PERFECT POWERS OF PRIME NUMBERS

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ABSTRACT. We prove a modification as well as an improvement of a result of K. Ford, D. R. Heath-Brown and S. Konyagin [2] concerning prime avoidance of square-free numbers and perfect powers of prime numbers.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In their paper [2], K. Ford, D. R. Heath-Brown and S. Konyagin prove the existence of infinitely many “prime-avoiding” perfect  $k$ -th powers for any positive integer  $k$ .

They give the following definition of prime avoidance: an integer  $m$  is called prime avoiding with constant  $c$ , if  $m + u$  is composite for all integers  $u$  satisfying<sup>1</sup>

$$|u| \leq c \frac{\log m \log_2 m \log_4 m}{(\log_3 m)^2}.$$

In this paper, we prove the following two theorems:

**Theorem 1.1.** *There is a constant  $c > 0$  such that there are infinitely many prime-avoiding square-free numbers with constant  $c$ .*

**Theorem 1.2.** *For any positive integer  $k$ , there are a constant  $c = c(k) > 0$  and infinitely many perfect  $k$ -th powers of prime numbers which are prime-avoiding with constant  $c$ .*

## 2. PROOF OF THE THEOREM 1.1

We largely follow the proof of [2].

**Lemma 2.1.** *For large  $x$  and  $z \leq x^{\log_3 x / (10 \log_2 x)}$ , we have*

$$|\{n \leq x : P^+(n) \leq z\}| \ll \frac{x}{(\log x)^5},$$

where  $P^+(n)$  denotes the largest prime factor of a positive integer  $n$ .

*Proof.* This is Lemma 2.1 of [2] (see also [8]). □

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $\mathcal{R}$  denote any set of primes and let  $a \in \{-1, 1\}$ . Then, for large  $x$ , we have*

$$|\{p \leq x : p \not\equiv a \pmod{r} \ (\forall r \in \mathcal{R})\}| \ll \frac{x}{\log x} \prod_{\substack{p \in \mathcal{R} \\ p \leq x}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right).$$

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<sup>1</sup>We denote by  $\log_2 x = \log \log x$ ,  $\log_3 x = \log \log \log x$ , and so on.

*Note.* Here and in the sequel  $p$  will always denote a prime number.

*Proof.* This is Lemma 2.2 of [2] (see also [4]). □

**Lemma 2.3.** *It holds*

$$\prod_{p \leq w} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right) = \frac{e^{-\gamma}}{\log w} \left(1 + O\left(\frac{1}{\log w}\right)\right), \quad (w \rightarrow +\infty),$$

where  $\gamma$  denotes the Euler-Mascheroni constant.

*Proof.* This is well known (cf. [5], p. 351). □

**Definition 2.4.** *Let  $x$  be a sufficiently large number. Let also  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  be two positive constants, to be chosen later and set*

$$z = x^{c_1 \log_3 x / \log_2 x}, \quad y = c_2 \frac{x \log x \log_3 x}{(\log_2 x)^2}.$$

Let

$$\begin{aligned} P_1 &= \left\{ p : p \leq \log x \text{ or } z < p \leq \frac{x}{4} \right\}, \\ P_2 &= \{ p : \log x < p \leq z \}, \\ U_1 &= \{ u \in [-y, y] : u \in \mathbb{Z}, p \mid u \text{ for at least one } p \in P_1 \}, \\ U_2 &= \{ u \in [-y, y] : u \notin U_1, u \notin \{-1, 0, 1\} \}, \\ U_3 &= \{ u \in U_2 : |u| \text{ is a prime number} \}, \\ U_4 &= \{ u \in U_2 : |u| \text{ is composed only of prime numbers } p \in P_2 \}. \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 2.5.** *We have*

$$U_2 = U_3 \cup U_4.$$

*Proof.* Assume that  $u \in U_2 \setminus U_4$ . Then, by Definition 2.4, there is a prime number  $p_0 \notin P_2$  with  $p_0 \mid |u|$ . Since by Definition 2.4 we know that  $u \notin U_1$ , we have

$$p_0 > \frac{x}{4}.$$

Let  $p_1$  be a prime with  $p_1 \mid \frac{|u|}{p_0}$ . Then

$$|u| \geq p_0 p_1 > \frac{x}{4} \log x > y.$$

Thus,  $p_1$  does not exist and we have  $|u| = p_0$  and therefore  $u \in U_3$ . □

**Lemma 2.6.** *We have*

$$|U_4| \ll \frac{x}{(\log x)^4}.$$

*Proof.* This follows immediately from Lemma 2.1. □

**Definition 2.7.** *Let*

$$U_5 = \{ u \in U_3 : p \nmid u + 1 \text{ for all } p \in P_2 \}.$$

**Lemma 2.8.** *We can choose the constants  $c_1, c_2$ , such that*

$$|U_5| \leq \frac{x}{3 \log x}.$$

*Proof.* By Lemma 2.2, we have

$$|U_5| \ll \frac{y}{\log y} \prod_{p \in P_2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right).$$

Additionally, by Lemma 2.3, we have

$$\prod_{p \in P_2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right) = \frac{(\log_2 x)^2}{c_1 \log x \cdot \log_3 x} \left(1 + O\left(\frac{1}{\log_2 x}\right)\right).$$

Therefore,

$$|U_5| \ll \frac{c_2}{c_1} \frac{x}{\log x},$$

which proves Lemma 2.8 □

**Definition 2.9.** We set

$$U_6 = U_4 \cup U_5 \cup \{-1, 0, 1\}.$$

**Lemma 2.10.** We have

$$|U_6| \leq \frac{x}{2 \log x}.$$

*Proof.* This follows from Definition 2.9 and Lemmas 2.6, 2.8. □

**Definition 2.11.** Let

$$P_3 = \left\{p : \frac{x}{4} < p \leq x\right\}.$$

Let  $\Phi : U_6 \rightarrow P_3$  be an injective map. Such a map  $\Phi$  exists, since

$$|P_3| \geq |U_6|.$$

We denote

$$\Phi(u) = p_u.$$

We define

$$N = \prod_{p \leq \frac{x}{4}} p \prod_{u \in U_6} p_u.$$

We determine  $m_0$  by the inequalities

$$1 \leq m_0 \leq N$$

and by the congruences:

- (1)  $m_0 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}, (p \in P_1)$
- (2)  $m_0 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}, (p \in P_2)$
- (3)  $m_0 \equiv -u \pmod{p_u}, (p \in \Phi(U_6)).$

**Lemma 2.12.** Let  $m \geq 2y$ ,  $m \equiv m_0 \pmod{N}$ . Then  $m + u$  is composite for  $u \in [-y, y]$ .

*Proof.* If  $u \in U_6$ , then by the congruence (3) of Definition 2.11, we have

$$p_u \mid m_0 + u.$$

For  $u \notin U_6$ , by the definition of the sets  $U_1, \dots, U_5$ , there is a  $p \in P_1$ , such that  $p \mid u$  or there is a  $p \in P_2$ , such that  $p \mid u + 1$ . In both cases  $p \mid m + u$ , due to the congruences (1) and (2).

Thus, for all  $u \in [-y, y]$  there is a prime  $p$  with  $p \mid m + u$  and  $p < m + u$ . Hence,  $m + u$  is composite for all  $u \in [-y, y]$ . □

*Proof of Theorem 1.1.* We now consider the arithmetic progression

$$(*) \quad m = kN + m_0, \quad k \in \mathbb{N}.$$

By elementary methods (see Heath-Brown [6] for references) the arithmetic progression  $(*)$  contains a square-free number

$$(1) \quad m \leq N^{3/2+\varepsilon},$$

where  $\varepsilon > 0$  is arbitrarily small.

By the prime number theorem, we have

$$(2) \quad N \leq e^{x+o(x)}.$$

By Lemma 2.12, we know that  $m+u$  is a composite number for  $u \in [-y, y]$ . By the estimates (1) and (2), we obtain

$$y \geq c \frac{\log m \log_2 m \log_4 m}{(\log_3 m)^2}$$

for a constant  $c > 0$ , which proves Theorem 1.1.

### 3. SIEVE ESTIMATES

We introduce some notations borrowed with minor modifications from [2].

Let

$\mathcal{A}$  = a finite set of integers

$\mathcal{P}$  = a subset of the set of all prime numbers .

For each prime  $p \in \mathcal{P}$ , suppose that we are given a subset  $\mathcal{A}_p \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ .

Let  $\mathcal{A}_1 = \mathcal{A}$ ,

$$P(z) = \prod_{\substack{p < z \\ p \in \mathcal{P}}} p$$

and

$$S(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{P}, z) = \left| \mathcal{A} \setminus \bigcup_{p|P(z)} \mathcal{A}_p \right|.$$

Then for a positive square-free integer  $d$  composed of primes of  $\mathcal{P}$  we define:

$$\mathcal{A}_d = \bigcap_{p|d} \mathcal{A}_p.$$

We assume that there is a multiplicative function  $\omega(\cdot)$ , such that for any  $d$  as above

$$|\mathcal{A}_d| = \frac{\omega(d)}{d} X + R_d,$$

for some  $R_d$ , where  $X = |\mathcal{A}|$ .

We set

$$W(z) = \prod_{p|P(z)} \left( 1 - \frac{\omega(p)}{p} \right).$$

**Lemma 3.1.** (BRUN'S SIEVE)

Let the notations be as above. Suppose that:

1.  $|R_d| \leq \omega(d)$  for any square-free integer  $d$  composed of primes of  $\mathcal{P}$
2. there exists a constant  $A_1 \geq 1$ , such that

$$0 \leq \frac{\omega(p)}{p} \leq 1 - \frac{1}{A_1}$$

3. there exist constants  $\kappa > 0$  and  $A_2 \geq 1$ , such that

$$\sum_{w \leq p < z} \frac{\omega(p) \log p}{p} \leq \kappa \log \frac{z}{w} + A_2, \text{ if } 2 \leq w \leq z.$$

Let  $b$  be a positive integer and let  $\lambda$  be a real number satisfying

$$0 < \lambda e^{1+\lambda} < 1.$$

Then

$$S(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{P}, z) \leq XW(z) \left\{ 1 + 2 \frac{\lambda^{2b+1} e^{2\lambda}}{1 - \lambda^2 e^{2+2\lambda}} \exp \left( (2b+3) \frac{c_1}{\lambda \log z} \right) \right\} + O \left( z^{2b + \frac{2.01}{e^{2\lambda/\kappa} - 1}} \right).$$

*Proof.* This is part of Theorem 6.2.5 of [1]. □

#### 4. PRIMES IN ARITHMETIC PROGRESSIONS

The following definition is borrowed from [7].

**Definition 4.1.** Let us call an integer  $q > 1$  a “good” modulus, if  $L(s, \chi) \neq 0$  for all characters  $\chi \bmod q$  and all  $s = \sigma + it$  with

$$\sigma > 1 - \frac{C_1}{\log [q(|t| + 1)]}.$$

This definition depends on the size of  $C_1 > 0$ .

**Lemma 4.2.** There is a constant  $C_1 > 0$  such that, in terms of  $C_1$ , there exist arbitrarily large values of  $x$  for which the modulus

$$P(x) = \prod_{p < x} p$$

is good.

*Proof.* This is Lemma 1 of [7] □

**Lemma 4.3.** Let  $q$  be a good modulus. Then

$$\pi(x; q, a) \gg \frac{x}{\phi(q) \log x},$$

uniformly for  $(a, q) = 1$  and  $x \geq q^D$ .

Here the constant  $D$  depends only on the value of  $C_1$  in Lemma 4.2.

*Proof.* This result, which is due to Gallagher [3], is Lemma 2 from [7]. □

## 5. CONGRUENCE CONDITIONS FOR THE PRIME-AVOIDING NUMBER

Let  $x$  be a large positive number and  $y, z$  be defined as in Definition 2.4. Set

$$P(x) = \prod_{p \leq x} p.$$

We will give a system of congruences that has a single solution  $m_0$ , with

$$0 \leq m_0 \leq P(x) - 1$$

having the property that the interval  $[m_0^k - y, m_0^k + y]$  contains only few prime numbers.

**Definition 5.1.** *We set*

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}_1 &= \{p : p \leq \log x \text{ or } z < p \leq x/40k\}, \\ \mathcal{P}_2 &= \{p : \log x < p \leq z\}, \\ \mathcal{U}_1 &= \{u \in [-y, y], u \in \mathbb{Z}, p \mid u \text{ for at least one } p \in \mathcal{P}_1\}, \\ \mathcal{U}_2 &= \{u \in [-y, y] : u \notin \mathcal{U}_1\}, \\ \mathcal{U}_3 &= \{u \in [-y, y] : |u| \text{ is prime}\}, \\ \mathcal{U}_4 &= \{u \in [-y, y] : P^+(|u|) \leq z\}, \\ \mathcal{U}_5 &= \{u \in \mathcal{U}_3 : p \nmid u + 2^k - 1 \text{ for } p \in \mathcal{P}_2\} \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 5.2.** *We have*

$$\mathcal{U}_2 = \mathcal{U}_3 \cup \mathcal{U}_4.$$

*Proof.* This is Lemma 2.5. □

**Lemma 5.3.** *We have*

$$|\mathcal{U}_4| \ll \frac{x}{(\log x)^4}.$$

*Proof.* This is Lemma 2.6. □

**Lemma 5.4.** *We can choose the constants  $c_1, c_2$  such that*

$$|\mathcal{U}_5| \leq \frac{x}{30k \log x}.$$

*Proof.* We have

$$\mathcal{U}_5 = \mathcal{U}_{5,1} \cup (-\mathcal{U}_{5,2})$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{U}_{5,1} &= \{u \in \mathcal{U}_3 : p \nmid u + 2^k - 1 \text{ for } p \in \mathcal{P}_2\} \\ \mathcal{U}_{5,2} &= \{u \in \mathcal{U}_3 : p \nmid -u + 2^k - 1 \text{ for } p \in \mathcal{P}_2\} \\ &= \{u \in \mathcal{U}_3 : p \nmid u - 2^k + 1 \text{ for } p \in \mathcal{P}_2\}. \end{aligned}$$

We only give details for the estimate of  $|\mathcal{U}_{5,1}|$ , since the estimate of  $|\mathcal{U}_{5,2}|$  is completely analogous.

We apply Lemma 3.1 with

$$\mathcal{A} = \{n : n \leq y\}.$$

For  $p \in \mathcal{P}_1$  we define  $\mathcal{A}_p$  by

$$\mathcal{A}_p = \{n \in \mathcal{A} : n \equiv 0 \pmod{p} \text{ or } n \equiv 1 - 2^k \pmod{p}\}.$$

We check whether the conditions for the application of Lemma 3.1 are satisfied. For  $d \mid P(y)$  we set:

$$\mathcal{A}_d = \bigcap_{p \mid d} \mathcal{A}_p .$$

We partition the interval  $(0, y]$  into  $\lfloor y/d \rfloor$  subintervals of length  $d$  and possibly one additional interval  $I_{last}$  of length less than  $d$ .

Let  $\omega(d)$  be the number of the solutions  $(\bmod d)$  of the system

$$\begin{aligned} n &\equiv 0 \pmod{p}, \quad p \in \mathcal{P}_1 \cup \mathcal{P}_2 \\ (**) \quad n &\equiv 1 - 2^k \pmod{p}, \quad p \in \mathcal{P}_2 . \end{aligned}$$

By the Chinese Remainder Theorem,  $\omega$  is multiplicative. Each interval of  $d$  consecutive integers contains exactly  $\omega(d)$  solutions of the system (\*\*).

Thus

$$\mathcal{A}_d = \frac{\omega(d)}{d} X + R_d,$$

where  $|R_d| \leq \omega(d)$ .

Thus, Lemma 3.1 is applicable and we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{U}_{5,1}| &\leq S(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{P}, z) \\ &\ll y \prod_{p \leq y} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right) \prod_{\log x < p \leq z} \left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right)^{-1} . \end{aligned}$$

Well known estimates of elementary prime number theory as in the proof of Lemma 2.8 in [2], give the result of Lemma 5.4.  $\square$

For the next definitions and results we follow the paper [2].

**Definition 5.5.** *Let*

$$\tilde{\mathcal{P}}_3 = \begin{cases} \{p : \frac{x}{40k} < p \leq x, \ p \equiv 2 \pmod{3}\} , & \text{if } k \text{ is odd} \\ \{p : \frac{x}{40k} < p \leq \frac{x}{2}, \ p \equiv 3 \pmod{2k}\} , & \text{if } k \text{ is even} , \end{cases}$$

*We now define the exceptional set  $\mathcal{U}_6$  as follows:*

*For  $k$  odd we set*

$$\mathcal{U}_6 = \emptyset .$$

*For  $k$  even and  $\delta > 0$ , we set*

$$\mathcal{U}_6 = \left\{ u \in [-y, y] : \left( \frac{-u}{p} \right) = 1 \text{ for at most } \frac{\delta x}{\log x} \text{ primes } p \in \tilde{\mathcal{P}}_3 \right\} .$$

We shall make use of the following result from [2].

**Lemma 5.6.**

$$|\mathcal{U}_6| \ll_{\varepsilon} x^{1/2+2\varepsilon} .$$

*Proof.* This is formula (4) from [2], where  $\mathcal{U}_6$  is denoted by  $\mathcal{U}'$ .  $\square$

**Definition 5.7.** *We set*

$$\mathcal{U}_7 = \mathcal{U}_4 \cup \mathcal{U}_5 .$$

**Lemma 5.8.** *We have*

$$|\mathcal{U}_7| \leq \frac{x}{20k \log x} .$$

*Proof.* This follows from Definition 5.7 and Lemmas 5.3, 5.4  $\square$

We now introduce the congruence conditions, which determine the integer  $m_0$  uniquely  $(\text{mod } P(x))$ .

**Definition 5.9.**

$$(C_1) \quad m_0 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}, \text{ for } p \in \mathcal{P}_1,$$

$$(C_2) \quad m_0 \equiv 2 \pmod{p}, \text{ for } p \in \mathcal{P}_2.$$

For the introduction of the congruence conditions  $(C_3)$  we make use of Lemma 5.8. Since

$$|\tilde{\mathcal{P}}_3| \geq |\mathcal{U}_7|,$$

there is an injective mapping

$$\Phi : \mathcal{U}_4 \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{P}}_3, \quad u \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_u.$$

We set

$$\mathcal{P}_3 = \Phi(\mathcal{U}_4).$$

For all  $u$ , for which the congruence

$$m^k \equiv -(u-1) \pmod{p_u}$$

is solvable, choose a solution  $m_u$  of this congruence.

The set  $(C_3)$  of congruences is then defined by

$$(C_3) \quad m_0 \equiv m_u \pmod{p_u}, \quad p_u \in \mathcal{P}_3.$$

Let

$$\mathcal{P}_4 = \{p \in [0, x) : p \notin \mathcal{P}_1 \cup \mathcal{P}_2 \cup \mathcal{P}_3\}.$$

The set of congruences is then defined by

$$(C_4) \quad m_0 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}, \quad p \in \mathcal{P}_4.$$

**Lemma 5.10.** *The congruence systems  $(C_1) - (C_4)$  and the condition  $1 \leq m_0 \leq P(x) - 1$  determine  $m_0$  uniquely. We have  $(m_0, P(x)) = 1$ .*

*Proof.* The uniqueness follows from the Chinese Remainder Theorem. The coprimality follows, since by the definition of  $(C_1) - (C_4)$   $m_0$  is coprime to all  $p$ , with  $0 < p \leq x$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5.11.** *Let  $m \equiv m_0 \pmod{P(x)}$ . Then  $(m, P(x)) = 1$  and the number*

$$m^k + (u-1)$$

*is composite for all  $u \in [-y, y] \setminus \mathcal{U}_6$ .*

*Proof.* For  $u \in \mathcal{U}_1$ , there is  $p \in \mathcal{P}_1$  with  $p \mid u$ . Therefore, since by Definition 5.9, the system  $(C_1)$  implies that  $m_0 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ , we have

$$m^k + (u-1) \equiv m_0^k + (u-1) \equiv 1 + u - 1 \equiv u \equiv 0 \pmod{p},$$

i.e.

$$p \mid m^k + (u-1).$$

For  $u \in \mathcal{U}_3$ ,  $u \notin \mathcal{U}_5$ , there is  $p \in \mathcal{P}_2$  with  $p \mid u + 2^k - 1$ .

Since by  $(C_2)$   $m_0 \equiv 2 \pmod{p}$ , we have

$$m_0^k + (u-1) \equiv 2^k - 2^k \equiv 0 \pmod{p},$$

i.e.

$$p \mid m^k + (u-1).$$

The remaining cases, except  $u \in \mathcal{U}_6$ , are checked similarly.  $\square$



## 6. CONCLUSION OF THE PROOF OF THEOREM 1.2

Let now  $x$  be such that  $P(x)$  is a good modulus in the sense of Definition 4.1. By Lemma 4.2, there are arbitrarily large such elements  $x$ . Let  $D$  be a sufficiently large positive integer. Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be the matrix with  $P(x)^{D-1}$  rows and  $U = 2\lfloor y \rfloor + 1$  columns, with the  $r, u$  element being

$$a_{r,u} = (m + rP(x))^k + u - 1,$$

where  $1 \leq r \leq P(x)^{D-1}$  and  $-y \leq u \leq y$ .

Let  $N(x, k)$  be the number of perfect  $k$ -th powers of primes in the column

$$\mathcal{C}_1 = \{a_{r,1} : 1 \leq r \leq P(x)^{D-1}\}.$$

Since  $P(x)$  is a good modulus, we have by Lemma 4.2 that

$$(5.1) \quad N_0(x, k) \geq C_0(k) \frac{P(x)^{D-1}}{\log(P(x)^{D-1})}.$$

Let  $\mathcal{R}_1$  be the set of rows  $R_1$ , in which these primes appear. We now give an upper bound for the number  $N_1$  of rows  $R_r \in \mathcal{R}_1$ , which contain primes.

We observe that for all other rows  $R_r \in \mathcal{R}_1$ , the element

$$a_{r,1} = (m_0 + rP(x))^k$$

is a prime avoiding  $k$ -th power of the prime  $m_0 + rP(x)$ .

**Lemma 6.1.** *For sufficiently small  $c_2$ , we have*

$$N_1 \leq \frac{1}{2} N_0(x, k).$$

*Proof.* For all  $v$  with  $v - 1 \in \mathcal{U}_6$ , let

$$T(v) = \{r : 1 \leq r \leq P(x)^{D-1}, m_0 + rP(x) \text{ and } (m_0 + rP(x))^k + v - 1 \text{ are primes}\}.$$

We have

$$(5.2) \quad N_1 \leq \sum_{v \in \mathcal{U}_6} T(v).$$

For the estimate of  $T(v)$  we apply again Lemma 3.1.

We set

$$g(r) = m_0 + rP(x)$$

$$h(r) = (m_0 + rP(x))^k + v - 1$$

$$\mathcal{A} = \{g(r)h(r) : 1 \leq r \leq P(x)^{D-1}\},$$

$$\mathcal{A}_p = \{n \in \mathcal{A} : n \equiv 0 \pmod{p}\}, \text{ for each prime } p \text{ with } x < p \leq P(x).$$

We let  $\omega(p)$  be the number of solutions of the congruence

$$g(r)h(r) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}, \quad \text{for } p > x.$$

Since  $p \nmid P(x)$ , the linear congruence

$$g(r) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$$

has exactly one solution.

Let

$$\rho(p) = \left| \{n \pmod{p} : n^k + v - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}\} \right|.$$

Then the congruence

$$h(r) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$$

has  $\rho(p)$  solutions  $\pmod{p}$ .

By Lemma 3.1, we have:

$$(5.3) \quad T(v) \leq S(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{P}, P(x)) \\ \ll P(x)^{D-1} \prod_{x < p \leq P(x)} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right) \prod_{x < p \leq P(x)} \left(1 - \frac{\rho(p)}{p}\right).$$

By Lemma 3.1 of [2], we have

$$\prod_{x < p \leq P(x)} \left(1 - \frac{\rho(p)}{p}\right) \ll_{k,\varepsilon} |v|^\varepsilon \frac{\log x}{\log P(x)}.$$

Lemma 6.1 now follows from (5.2), (5.3) and the bound for  $|\mathcal{U}_6|$ .

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.2. □

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